



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



May 2018

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

PASTOR'S PEN: REV. DR. JERRY CARPENTER

Preacher, Minister, Reverend, Pastor...all are words that are often used to describe or name the person a congregation calls to lead them spiritually. People who fulfill such roles are often called one or all of these names. When I began my ministry 27 years ago, I thought about which of these words I would choose if I were to select one of them that would define what I do in ministry more distinctly than the others. The word I use most often to define my role in ministry is "pastor".

Yes, I am involved in ministry in many ways as the leader of a congregation and preaching and teaching are part of the call and duties of a minister. The word "pastor", however, defines my call in a way that is much more aligned with what I see a minister doing in the role he fulfills with a congregation and is comprehensive of the other titles one may choose to name the leader. Pastor is a name that is closely related to the word "shepherd" as both words share a common root meaning.

Being a pastor puts one in the role where he cares for those who are in his "flock", those who need ministry in many ways. A pastor visits those who are ill and who may be in the hospital or care facilities. A pastor counsels with persons who are in need of spiritual or personal direction. A pastor teaches those who have a desire to grow spiritually both at the church and in other venues that may happen within the ministry context. A pastor considers those in his care as persons of worth and persons loved by God.

We recently had "Shepherd Sunday" on the Fourth Sunday after Easter. On that Sunday, we read from John's Gospel the selection that begins, "I am the Good Shepherd..." Those are Jesus' words to describe him and how he relates to all who are in his care. He makes the differentiation between the shepherd who owns the sheep and cares for them and the hired hand who only works for the shepherd to oversee them. The shepherd loves them and calls them by name and they hear the voice of the shepherd and come at his call. The hired hand runs away when danger happens and allows the wolf to scatter and snatch the sheep. Jesus says that since he is the Good Shepherd then he will care for the sheep and look out for their well-being.

Pastors minister on behalf of the Good Shepherd to care for the sheep so that the will of God is done to keep them safe and near to God. Pastors are not perfect people because they are human, after all, but they are charged with acting on behalf of the Good Shepherd to do what they feel Jesus would do if He was in human flesh for the well-being of all the sheep. Pastors cannot do everything that needs to be done so he encourages all in his care to help care for one another.

I hope to be in ministry to you all as I get to know you and find areas of service with which I can connect with you. I want to connect with you as your pastor and your friend and do all I can to help the body of Christ to be active and vital and involved in ministry wherever it is needed. As we work together, we can accomplish much for the Kingdom of God.

ATTENTION: NEW PRAYER REQUESTS MONTHLY

In order to keep our prayer requests current, our prayer list will start fresh at the beginning of each month. To keep your prayer request in the bulletin, write it on the back of an offering envelope, the attendance sheet or a piece of paper (please make sure your name is on it) or contact the church office, firstpres@peoplescom.net or 903-342-3011. We do not need the reason, unless it is death or an accomplishment, which go under a different heading. Also, please give relationship to you so others know who they are praying for. And PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY.

As our prayers are answered, we give God thanks. For those with continued needs, we continue to pray.

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

Session members:

Class of 2018

Becky Poe

Class of 2019

John Clark and Molly Lennon

Class of 2020

Louis Bond and Armel Crocker

Treasurer

Jerry Poe

Contact us:

Tina Hammer, Secretary

PO Box 493

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Winnsboro, TX 75404

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Email: firstpres@peoplescom.net

Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

FPC Website:

www.easttexasgrace.org

Cross and Crown articles:

firstpres@peoplescom.net

Attendance:

April 1—46

April 8—19

April 15—41

April 22—24



Noisy Offering

May: Blessing Box

June: Camp Gilmont

July: Gilbreath Mem. Public

Library, children's collection



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

Life is Temptation James I: 12-18

It pursues us through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, old age, and senility (!) right up to the gates of heaven. It entices us at work and play. It intrudes into our thoughts, our dreams, and even into our prayers. "Temptations to sin are sure to come," Jesus said.

God could spare us from such enticement, but He has determined not to do so—for good reason: "God permits temptation to sin," said Augustine, "to transform it into greater good."

Temptation makes us aware of "the strength of the evil impulse within us" and reveals the fragile stuff of which we are made. It humbles us. It makes us more reliant on God's strength, and therefore less likely to yield.

Though God allows temptation, He is not the source of it. James assures us. "When tempted, no one should say 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone" (James I: 13). This is another way of saying that God's purposes are wholly good. It is not in God's nature to draw us into sin. No, *we* are the problem. We are tempted when we are "dragged away and enticed" by our own desires—our longings for something other than God, or something more than God has chosen to give us. In contrast, Satan wants to take life, God longs to give it.

How then, can we avoid being taken in by Satan's menace and deceit? By taking heed to God's WORD! The way to fend off Satan is to meet him at the beginning before he gathers strength and overwhelms you. Be vigilant, watchful, alert. Meet him immediately with a word from God and banish him, as you would dismiss some obnoxious traveling salesman, before he gets his foot in the door. Remind yourself of some word that God has given you that speaks to the particular *lie* Satan is advancing and submit yourself to that truth.


So, when Satan begins to croon one of his alluring, fatal tunes, sing to yourself the lyrics God's WORD, "sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). And then submit yourself to that Word. This is Paul's "way of escape" (I Corinthians 10: 13). It's the only way to get through.

Taken from: *Growing Slowly Wise: Building a Faith That Works, Why Comes Temptation?* By David Roper: Discovery House Publishers.

**Please take note: I have been publishing many of my readings from David Roper and Tabletalk, Theology Matters, etc. for a time. I've wondered if you all might like to hear from someone else by now? Becky Poe suggested I do this and it was her idea to post my photo on "From the Desk of:"! Please speak to her or Tina or me if you have an interest in writing for our monthly, 'The Cross and the Crown'. You may reach me at: lrwheeler140@yahoo.com (YOU could get your picture in the PAPER!)*

| General Fund Summary - Jan - Mar 2018 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Income | \$12,422.17 | \$13,349.96 | \$927.79 |
| Expense | \$ 13,382.35 | \$12,762.14 | \$620.21 |
| Net | (\$960.18) | | |

Note: Bank balance 3/31/2018 was \$48,056.62. Restricted funds totaled \$12,029.75, while unrestricted funds totaled \$36,026.87. (Uncleared checks total \$997.47 leaving \$35,029.40 available for normal bills.)



Presbyterian Women
Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

Please join us Monday, May 7th, to complete our Cloud of Witnesses: the Community of Christ in Hebrews Bible study. Be prepared to discuss Lessons 8 and 9.

We will also be making plans for our annual summer luncheon.

Note: In addition to someone possibly taking over Ruth's column, I need articles to be submitted for our newsletter. This month is pretty puny. If you would like to write something or find something of interest to our congregation, please send it to the office. Deadline for submission is posted weekly in the Announcements.

NOTE: For an updated calendar, please go to easttexasgrace.org

May

| Sun 29 | Mon 30 | Tue May 1 | Wed 2 | Thu 3 | Fri 4 | Sat 5 |
|--|--|---|---|---|--------------|---|
| <p>Noisy Offering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12:30pm Reception for Dr. Adkins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2pm Bible study | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov | <p>Louis Bond</p> <p>National day of Prayer</p> | | <p>Cinco de Mayo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Al-Anon |
| <p>6</p> <p>Communion</p> | <p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am PW ● 2pm Bible study | <p>8</p> <p>Bob Kelm</p> | <p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov | <p>10</p> <p>Ascension of the Lord</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Al-Anon |
| <p>13</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> | <p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2pm Bible study | <p>15</p> | <p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov | <p>17</p> <p>Debra Gaines</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Presbytery mtg., FPC Richardson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Al-Anon |
| <p>20</p> <p>Armel Crocker</p> <p>Family Lunch</p> | <p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Cross & Crown due ● 2pm Bible study | <p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Session reports due | <p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Annv. Baber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Al-Anon |
| <p>27</p> <p>Noisy Offering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Session | <p>28</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> <p>Ruth Shelton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov | <p>31</p> | <p>Jun 1</p> | <p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Al-Anon |

